

NEW YORK
HERALD TRIBUNE

SEP 9 1963

Approved For Release 2004/12/15 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000700590009-5

\$\$\$ Behind

Viet Crackdown?

By United Press International

WASHINGTON.

The crack Vietnamese Special Forces troops who stormed Saigon's Buddhist pagodas Aug. 21 are still being paid secretly by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency which trained them for other purposes, highly reliable sources said yesterday.

CIO officials said the agency would have no comment on this report.

The sources said the troops' commander, tough, police-trained Col. Le Quang Tung receives \$3 million annually from secret CIA funds for salaries and upkeep of his 2,000 troops.

Col. Tung, who is also head of the presidential palace security service, has assumed heavily increased powers since the martial law declaration of Aug. 21. He reportedly takes orders directly from

the President's powerful brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu.

Last Tuesday, Col. Tung received his regular monthly payment of approximately \$250,000 from the CIO in Saigon on schedule despite publicly announced U.S. anger over the wholesale arrest of Buddhists and other dissident elements in which Col. Tung's troops figured prominently, the informants said.

The sources said there was bitter opposition from most CIA men in South Viet Nam to continuing the monthly payments, which have been for a year and a half.

The sources said that during a CIA staff meeting in Saigon last Monday, all the members present strongly opposed continuing the payments to Col. Tung except for one man who half-heartedly wanted to keep them going.

The sources said that most

of the CIA Staff men left the meeting Monday with the impression that the payments would be cut off.

But at the meeting there last Tuesday, the CIA staff was informed that apparently on orders from Washington, the CIA was doing "business as usual" with Col. Tung and the payment went through on schedule.

The sources said that creation and support of Col. Tung's forces was never a part of the normal U.S. military assistance program here, but was originally and totally undertaken by the CIA.

The forces were armed with CIA funds, and given the best training in jungle fighting and guerrilla operations available, under CIA supervision, by officers of the U.S. special forces.

Some of the squads also were specially trained in as-

sassination and sabotage, the sources said.

The situation in Saigon was reported quiet yesterday, although the bulk of 800 high school students arrested Saturday remained in detention. Hundreds of parents milled around police stations seeking their children's release, but they were meeting little success.

Bell Warns Of Viet Aid Cut

U. S. foreign aid administrator David Bell warned yesterday that failure of South Viet Nam's government to reform its policies could result in reduction of U. S. aid.

However, Mr. Bell, in a television interview (Issues and Answers, WABC-TV), said that the question of any aid restriction is not at issue now.

The U. S. is strongly de-

sirous to continue in the defense of freedom," in South-east Asia, he said. "We want very much to be able to continue to join in an effective program to defeat the Communist guerrillas. . . ."